Signing the CTBT

349. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the press news item captioned "Govt.'s wisdom of agreeing to sign CTBT questioned" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 6.2.99.

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government on the views expressed in the news-item;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take any final decision on signing CTBT in view of economic sanctions imposed by US administration;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government's position on the CTBT is determined purely by considerations of national interest. On December 15, 1998, Prime Minister had stated that "India is now engaged in discussions with key interlocutors on a range of issues, including the CTBT. We are prepared to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion, so that the entry into force of the CTBT is not delayed beyond September 1999. We expect that other countries as indicated in Article XIV of the CTBT, will adhere to the Treaty without conditions. That remains our position. For the successful conclusion of the talks, creation of a positive environment by our interlocutors is a necessary ingredient". The most recent discussions with the US and other interlocutors were conducted on this basis.

Illegal Immigration from Myanmar, Bangladesh and China

350. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since negotiated the question of illegal immigration of people from Myanmar, Bangladesh, China etc.; and

(b) if so, the details and outcome, if any, till date?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Government takes up the question of illegal immigration, whenever necessary, with the countries concerned. In this regard Government have often conveyed concern about the seriousness and the magnitude of the problem of infiltration and illegal migration to the Government of Bangladesh. At the Home Secretaries' talks in Dhaka on 20-22 November, 1998 both sides agreed to adhere to specific procedures in this connection. The Government of Bangladesh has conveyed the assurance that measures will be taken to strengthen security at the border to prevent illegal border crossing.

China's Allegation regarding Grabbing of Land

351. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, while criticising the statement made by the Union Urban Affairs Minister describing Taiwan as an independent country, China has recently alleged that India has grabbed 90,000 sq. km. of Chinese territory; and

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) China's official news agency, Xinhua, in a signed commentary on January 1, 1999 had wrongly alleged that India had taken possession of "about 90,000 sq. kms. of Chinese territory".

(b) Our consistent and well knows position is that the part of Indian territory under illegal occupation by China in the State of Jammu & Kashmir has an area of approximately 38,000 sq. kms. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan 'Boundary Agreement' of 1963, Pakistan